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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shackleford, J. Barry                      Art Unit : 2121  
Atty Dkt. : 10008128-1                                      Examiner : Joseph P Hirl  
Issue Date : n/a  
Serial No. : 09/986,531  
Filed : 11/9/2001  
Title : Combinatorial Fitness Function Circuit

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**VIA FACSIMILE**

**RESPONSE**

Dear Examiner:

In response to the Office Action of February 2, 2004, please amend this application as follows:

**In the Specification:**

Please replace the sentence on page 9, line 32-34 beginning with "As illustrated in FIGURE 4, the first value 411..." with the following sentence:

"As illustrated in FIGURE 4, the first value 411 of the register 410, in this case a three bit length value, is connected to the first distance table RAM 421 and the second distance table RAM 422."